

Coyotes in Terrell Hills



Coyotes are becoming more prevalent in suburban areas because of economic growth and fortunately they are not typically known to attack people and larger dogs. Coyotes are a shy animal that does not like confrontation with people, so hazing is a very effective tool in deterring coyotes from your yard.

Hazing can include being very loud and large, yelling “Go away” while waving your arms and running toward it, to scare the coyote away. A person can use noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, bells, or homemade shakers to scare the coyote away. Objects that can be used as a threat to coyotes are sticks, water

hoses, rocks, balls, or pepper spray.

The key is to never run from the coyote. Usually coyotes will stay away after being hazed a couple of times.

There are several daily habits that people can adopt to make yards less attractive to coyotes:

- Don't keep pet food outside.
- Clean your grill after using or store it inside your garage when not in use.
- Securely cover your trash and recycling cans. If possible and practical, put your trash out the morning of pick-up, rather than the evening before.
- Don't add meat, bones, etc., to your compost pile. Ensure your compost bin is tightly and securely covered.
- If you have fruit trees, pick up fallen fruit to not let it rot on the ground. Coyotes are very opportunistic feeders.
- Keep cats indoors. Always is safest, but at least between the dusk and dawn hours (when coyotes tend to be most active).
- Don't leave dogs tied up outside, especially small dogs. But really any dog of any size, when tied up is no match for a coyote and is enticing to them.
- Don't become indifferent to the existence of coyotes. If you see a coyote in your yard or neighborhood ALWAYS haze them away. Remind your neighbors of the importance of doing the same.

The coyote is a very smart animal, so it is nearly impossible for Terrell Hills Police Officers to trap the coyote using a live trap. The Terrell Hills Police Department can be called to assist with hazing.